



THE BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL OF
TOCH
LONDON, 1948

The
FESTIVAL
SERVICE

IN THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL
AT THREE P.M. ON SATURDAY
THE ELEVENTH OF DECEMBER

The Thanksgivings, Intercessions and Petitions will be led by Padre Austen Williams. The Rev. George F. McLeod, M.C., D.D., will give the Address. At the Organ : Arnold Greir.

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

“FESTIVALS” says the first book printed in England, “are ordayned to serve God onlie”. This truth is not forgotten in Toc H, wherein men never meet for self-congratulation.

SO, at our Birthday Festivals, we are accustomed to make the milestone into Jacob’s pillow and to look for heavenly ladders to hearten us before the road begins again.

+ + +

WHILE you are waiting for the Service to begin, will you of your brotherliness ensure that your neighbour studies beforehand these simple rules that introduce this Service? Corporate acceptance of them will greatly enhance the unity of our worship.

- I. All Prayers shall be made standing: the oldest attitude of Christian men’s Thanksgiving.
- II. Each Prayer follows immediately on a Hymn; therefore remain standing at the end of each of the first three hymns.
- III. The Prayers are not printed herein, lest the restless turning over of pages defeat our concentration. We ask then for that Silence that is the symbol of the attentive spirit.
- IV. Each Prayer is composed of short petitions. Each petition will have varied response. Each response will be said, first by a leader and then *repeated* by us all.
- V. Each Hymn shall be introduced solely by the playing of the tune on the Organ.
- VI. We shall be seated until after the Silence at the commencement, then for the reading of the Lessons, for the Address, and after the Benediction.

+ + +

Order of Service

During the Organ Voluntary and when the Ministers enter, all shall remain seated. Then shall be said:

Let us keep silence for a space
that together we may worship God.

+ + +

*After the Silence the Organ shall call us to stand
and sing:*

LIFT up your heads, ye gates of brass;
Ye bars of iron, yield,
And let the king of glory pass:
The cross is in the field.

That banner, brighter than the star
That leads the train of night,
Shines on their march, and guides from far
His servants to the fight.

A holy war those servants wage;
Mysteriously at strife,
The powers of heaven and hell engage
For more than death or life.

Ye armies of the living God,
His sacramental host!
Where hallowed footsteps never trod,
Take your appointed post.

Though few and small and weak your bands,
Strong in your captain's strength,
Go to the conquest of all lands,
All must be his at length.

Uplifted are the gates of brass,
The bars of iron yield;
Behold the king of glory pass;
The cross hath won the field.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The congregation standing. To each petition a leader will make response. Each response will be repeated, not with him, but after him by us all.

The Lord's Prayer

In which all shall join.

Two Lessons from an Older Covenant

The congregation seated

THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord God hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek. He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. Ye shall be named the priests of the Lord; men shall call you the ministers of our God.

Their seed shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness go forth as brightness and her salvation as a lamp that burneth.

Isaiah 61 and 62.

HOW can he get wisdom that holdeth the plough and that glorieth in the goad, that driveth oxen and is occupied in their labours and whose talk is of bullocks? He giveth his mind to make furrows and is diligent to give the kine fodder.

So every carpenter and workmaster that laboureth night and day, and they that cut and grave seals and are diligent to make great variety, and give themselves to counterfeit imagery, and watch to finish a work. The smith also sitting by the anvil and considering the iron work, the vapour of the fire wasteth his flesh and he fighteth with the heat of the furnace. The noise of the hammer and the anvil is ever in his ears, and his eyes look still upon the pattern of the thing that he maketh. He setteth his mind to finish his work and watcheth to polish it perfectly.

So doth the potter sitting at his work and turning the wheel about with his feet, who is alway carefully set at his work and maketh all his work by number. He fashioneth the clay with his arm and boweth down his strength before his feet; he applieth himself to lead it over and he is diligent to make clean the furnace.

All these trust to their hands and every one is wise in his work. Without these cannot a city be inhabited; they shall not dwell where they will, nor go up and down. They shall not be sought for in public counsel, nor sit high in the congregation. They shall not sit on the judges' seat, nor understand the sentence of judgement; they cannot declare justice and judgement, and they shall not be found where parables are spoken. But they will maintain the state of the world and all their desire is in the work of their craft.

Ecclesiasticus 38.

The Organ shall call us to be upstanding in Praise.

COME, Kindred, upstand in the valour of Jesus,
And praise him and plight him the troth of true men,
His yoke we are breasting together will ease us
When back at the pick and the lathe and the pen.

How honest his harness! O be ye then humble
To know that he gives us a thing to be done!
Let us laugh at each set-back, and learn from each stumble,
With his hand to help us, his light leading on.

The mists that lay round us are thinning and breaking,
The road it runs up to the dawn on the hills.
Trudge on with your tools to your great undertaking—
To lighten the load of young Everyman's ills.

Trudge on, singing praise for a spirit twice gifted,
Through lads in the line from their Lord on his tree.
As strong stars at midnight, his lamp they uplifted,
And strode to their tasks like tall ships running free.

We are debtors to them, who with lamps ever burning,
Foregather this instant in heed to his call.
Re-union they bought us by never returning,
And homeless, they builded a house for us all.

Prayer of Intercession

*The congregation standing. To each petition a leader
will make response. Each response will be repeated,
not with him, but after him by us all.*

Two Lessons from the New Covenant

The congregation seated.

O THE DEPTH of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him and through him and unto him are all things. To him be the glory for ever. Amen.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but so to think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith.

Romans 11 and 12.

WE are labourers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burnt, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 3.

The Organ shall call us to stand and sing:

O God of earth and altar,
Bow down and hear our cry,
Our earthly rulers falter,
Our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us,
The swords of scorn divide,
Take not thy thunder from us,
But take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches,
From lies of tongue and pen,
From all the easy speeches
That comfort cruel men,
From sale and profanation
Of honour and the sword,
From sleep and from damnation,
Deliver us, good Lord!

Tie in a living tether
The prince and priest and thrall,
Bind all our lives together,
Smite us and save us all;
In ire and exultation
Aflame with faith, and free,
Lift up a living nation,
A single sword to thee.

Prayer of Supplication

*The congregation standing. To each petition a leader
will make response. Each response will be repeated,
not with him, but after him by us all.*

Then shall the Organ lead us in singing the 23rd Psalm

THE LORD'S my Shepherd, I'll not want:
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill:
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

The Address

The congregation seated.

Then shall follow the climax of our Praise.

Te Deum Laudamus

WE PRAISE THEE, O GOD: we acknowledge thee
to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens and all the
Powers therein.

To thee Cherubin, and Seraphin: continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty: of thy Glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles: praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets: praise thee.

The noble army of Martyrs: praise thee.
 The holy Church throughout all the world: doth
 acknowledge thee;
 The Father: of an infinite Majesty;
 Thine honourable, true: and only Son;
 Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.
 Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.
 Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.
 When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst
 not abhor the Virgin's womb.
 When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death: thou
 didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all
 believers.
 Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the Glory of the
 Father.
 We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge.
 We therefore pray thee, help thy servants: whom thou
 hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
 Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory
 everlasting.
 O Lord, save thy people: and bless thine heritage.
 Govern them: and lift them up for ever.
 Day by day: we magnify thee;
 And we worship thy Name: ever world without end.
 Vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin.
 O Lord, have mercy upon us: have mercy upon us.
 O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in
 thee.
 O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be
 confounded.

The Benediction

*shall be pronounced and thereafter the congregation
 shall be seated in silent prayer.*

+ + +

*After a pause the Organ shall play. The congregation
 are asked to remain in their seats until asked by the
 Stewards to leave, one section at a time.*

